

John 12:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

Analysis

Jesus declares He came not to judge but to save the world, defining His first advent's purpose. The Greek verb 'krino' (judge) refers to condemnation, not discernment. His mission is salvific, not punitive—judgment comes at second advent. This grace period offers salvation freely. However, those rejecting Him judge themselves (v. 48). Christ's presence forces decision: acceptance brings salvation, rejection brings condemnation. The distinction between first advent (grace) and second advent (judgment) is crucial. This grace period won't last forever.

Historical Context

Jesus consistently distinguished His two comings—first as suffering servant (Is 53), second as judging king (Rev 19). This distinction explained why He didn't establish immediate political kingdom.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Christ's two advents clarify His first coming's purpose?
2. What does this teach about the current age as grace period before judgment?
3. In what ways are you seizing the opportunity of grace before judgment comes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐάν τίς μου ἀκούσῃ τῶν ῥημάτων καὶ μὴ
And G1437 any man my hear G3588 words And not
G2532 G5100 G3450 G191 G4487 G2532 G3361

πιστεύσῃ ἐγὼ οὐ κρίνω αὐτόν οὐ γὰρ ἥλθον ἵνα
believe I not judge him not for I came to
G4100 G1473 G3756 G2919 G846 G3756 G1063 G2064 G2443

κρίνω τὸν κόσμον ἀλλ' ἵνα σώσω τὸν κόσμον
judge the world but to save G3588 the world
G2919 G2889 G235 G2443 G4982 G3588 G2889

Additional Cross-References

John 3:17 (Salvation): For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 12:48 (Judgment): He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

1 John 4:14 (Salvation): And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Luke 19:10 (Salvation): For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

